



THE CANDIDATE

A Sci-Fi/High-Concept 3-Character Screenplay in Hinglish

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LOGLINE: Asha arrives for a job interview, but Professor Aruna and Neha keep asking questions that sound more like moral tests than employment screening. As the interview unfolds, Asha realizes the company is not hiring workers—they are selecting a person to carry a memory into a cloned body. The final twist forces one woman to decide whether identity is something you can legally transfer.

CAST / CHARACTERS: FORMAT: 3-Character Short Film (Trio Cast) | Character 1: Professor Aruna (50)

LOCATION: A futuristic interview room that can still be shot simply: a clean white office cabin with one table, three chairs, and a single glowing panel screen. Cool LED lighting and a faint hum create a sterile, high-concept mood.

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FADE IN:

INT. FUTURISTIC INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

Ek clean white cabin. Ek table. Teen chairs. Center mein ek GLOWING PANEL SCREEN. Cool LED light. Faint hum.

ASHA (26), modest formal wear, worn folder pakde, andar aati hai.

NEHA (27), smart casuals, polished smile, tablet aur interview form ke saath, already seated.

PROFESSOR ARUNA (50), structured jacket, composed, notes ka stack sambhale, unblinking.

NEHA

Ms. Asha?

ASHA

Ji. Good morning.

Asha ■■■■■ hai. Folder ko lap mein rakh leti hai.

ARUNA

Good morning. Please relax. Hum bas... suitability assess kar rahe hain.

ASHA

Suitability for what, exactly?

Neha smile karti hai. Thoda too polished.

NEHA

Bas aapke answers dekhna hai. Resume toh sabka same hota hai.

Aruna notes par nazar daalti hai.

ARUNA

First question. Aapki zindagi ka sabse bada moral compromise kya tha?

Asha blink karti hai.

ASHA

Interview mein yeh poochte hain?

NEHA

Hum yahan normal hiring nahi kar rahe.

Beat.

ASHA

Toh phir?

Aruna screen ki taraf ishara karti hai. Screen par text glow hota hai:

MEMORY STABILITY / 78%

ARUNA

Agar aapko ek innocent person ko sacrifice karke teen log bachane pad■■■, aap kya karenge?

ASHA

Main pehle poochungi—teen log kaun? Aur innocent person kaun decide karega?

Neha ka smile ek second ke liye crack hota hai.

NEHA

Interesting.

ASHA

Aur ek aur baat— job description kahaan hai?

Neha interview form palat-ti hai. Blank.

ASHA (CONT'D)

Is form mein title hi nahi hai.

Aruna calm.

ARUNA

Title irrelevant hai. Continuity relevant hai.

Asha confused, alert.

ASHA

Continuity of what?

Screen flickers.

IDENTITY CONSENT / PENDING

NEHA

Next. Aapne kabhi apni memory ko lie bola hai?

ASHA

Memory lie nahi bolti. Log bolte hain.

ARUNA

Clever. But evasive.

ASHA

Aur aap log? Aap log kya ho? Recruiters? Ya examiners?

Neha water glass ko thoda sa rotate karti hai.

NEHA

Dono.

Asha folder kholti hai. Resume, certificates.

ASHA

Main software systems mein kaam karti hoon. Ethics compliance bhi kiya hai. Agar aapko technical skill chahiye toh—

ARUNA

Humein skill nahi chahiye.

Beat.

ARUNA (CONT'D)

Humein aapki memory chahiye.

Silence.

Asha slowly looks up.

ASHA

Kya?

Neha screen on karti hai.

CANDIDATE SELECTED FOR MEMORY TRANSFER

INTO CLONED VESSEL

Asha ka face freeze.

ASHA

Cloned... vessel?

NEHA

Please don't make it sound ugly. It's a licensed continuity program.

ASHA

Main kisi vessel mein transfer hone wali hoon?

Aruna notes close karti hai.

ARUNA

Aapki original body terminal hai. Memory preserve karna humane option hai.

ASHA

Humane? Aap log mujhe copy bol rahe ho.

ARUNA

No. We are saying identity is transferable.

ASHA

Identity transferable hoti hai? Toh phir dard? Fear? Smell? Woh sab kaun carry karega?

Neha ka polished expression thoda soft hota hai.

NEHA

Main carry karti hoon.

Asha Neha ko dekhti hai.

ASHA

Matlab?

Neha ek beat ke baad seedha bolti hai.

NEHA

Main bhi transferred hoon. Do saal pehle. Original body gone. New continuity, same compliance.

Asha stunned.

ASHA

Toh tum recruiter nahi ho.

NEHA

Main bridge hoon.

Aruna thodi aur cold.

ARUNA

Enough sentiment. Final confirmation. Sign the form.

Asha form uthati hai. Pen ko dekhti hai.

ASHA

Agar main sign kar doon, main kaun rahungi?

ARUNA

Legally, same person.

ASHA

Aur practically?

ARUNA

Practically, upgraded.

Asha aahista hansii.

ASHA

Wah. Human body ka EMI plan.

Neha almost smiles, then stops.

NEHA

Asha, this is your chance. Consciousness survives.

ASHA

Consciousness survives. Body replace ho jaaye, pain replace ho jaaye, phir bhi aap bol rahi ho main main rahungi?

ARUNA

Memory is the self.

ASHA

Nahi. Memory is evidence. Self woh hai jo yaad rakhta hai, aur jo bhoolta bhi hai.

Beat. Aruna's jaw tightens.

Screen flickers again. A new file opens.

ASHA ka face—different age, different name.

Asha stares.

ASHA (CONT'D)

Yeh kya hai?

Neha checks the screen, alarmed.

NEHA

That file shouldn't be visible.

Aruna leans in, irritated.

ARUNA

Close it.

Asha reads the line.

TRANSFER CONSENT CAN BE REVERSED

IF SUBJECT REFUSES AT FINAL CONFIRMATION

Asha slowly smiles.

ASHA

Toh interview yahi tha. Final confirmation.

Aruna's face hardens.

ARUNA

Sign.

ASHA

Nahi.

She folds the form carefully and places it under the water glass.

ASHA (CONT'D)

Aap memory transfer bech rahe ho. Main identity transfer nahi karungi.

Silence.

Screen blinks:

CANDIDATE DECLINED

Aruna's top note slips from the stack and falls. A line is visible:

INITIATE RETENTION PROTOCOL

Neha's smile disappears.

NEHA

Asha...

ASHA

Ab kya?

Aruna stands, controlled but dangerous.

ARUNA

Ab interview khatam nahi hua. Role change hua hai.

Asha looks at the door. Locked.

The room hum grows louder.

NEHA

Don't panic.

ASHA

Main panic nahi kar rahi. Main remember kar rahi
hoon.

The glowing screen pulses red.

CUT TO BLACK.

END.